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Israel

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MINISTERS INTERVIEWED ON 17 JUNE ISRAELI CABINET MEETING

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(REPORT BY POLITICAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT SHALOM GITAL ON THE 17 JUNE MEETING OF THE ISRAELI CABINET AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF CABINET MINISTERS MOSHE DAYAN AND YITZHAK RAFA'EL)

(TEXT) THE CABINET LAST NIGHT EMPOWERED THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER TO CONTINUE CONTACTS IMPOUNDED THE UNITED STATES TO ACHIEVE AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT. THE THREE WILL REPORT TO THE CABINET DURING THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND IF THE NEED ARISES TO ADOPT NEW DECISIONS THE THREE WILL SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS TO A CABINET PLENARY MEETING.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SEVERAL WEEKS WILL BE NEEDED DURING WHICH THERE WILL BE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING THE RABIN-FORD MEETING, THE UNITED STATES COMMUNICATED TO EGYPT THE ISRAELI STAND AND NOW WASHINGTON IS AWAITING THE EGYPTIAN REPLY.

IF THERE IS AN EGYPTIAN MOVE FORWARD FROM THE FORMULAS WHICH RESULTED IN THE SCHUTTLING OF THE ATTEMPTS IN MARCH THERE WOULD BE AN ISRAELI READINESS TO GIVE MORE. CONSEQUENTLY DR KISSINGER WOULD COME TO THE REGION, AND IF--WHEN HE COMES--IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THERE IS A BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED WITHIN A FEW DAYS. HOWEVER, THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THERE INDEED WILL BE A BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE WITH US A NUMBER OF MINISTERS WHO TOOK PART IN LAST NIGHT'S CABINET MEETING.

MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN, ARE YOU ON THE (TELEPHONE--FBIS) LINE?

(DAYAN) YES, I AM.

(GITAL) YOU CAME TO THE CABINET MEETING DIRECTLY FROM THE AIRPORT ON YOUR RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES. I ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE HEARD THE DETAILED REPORT OF THE PRIME MINISTER. DID YOU LEARN FROM THAT THAT THERE IS NOW A PROSPECT FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT?

(DAYAN) IN MY OPINION THE SITUATION IS NOT YET CLEAR AND CONSEQUENTLY WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM EGYPT OR WHETHER EGYPT WILL INDEED BE READY TO MAKE A SERIOUS OFFER TOWARD AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES WAS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT HAS PREVENTED ALL SORTS OF FUTURE ILLUSIONS, COMPLICATIONS, AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND WE PRESENTED ISRAEL'S POSITION WELL. HOWEVER IT IS PREMATURE TO KNOW YET WHAT WILL BE NEXT.

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(QITAL) MINISTER GOL. I WISH TO ASK YOU HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE AN EGY TO MAKE AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT?

(GOL) LOOK, THE EGYPTIAN CONTRIBUTION SHOULD FIRST BE EXPRESSED IN THE DURATION OF AN AGREEMENT.

(QITAL) WHAT IS THE DURATION? THREE YEARS?

(GOL) I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MANY YEARS BECAUSE IN MY OPINION 3 YEARS IS NOT ENOUGH.

(QITAL) AND APART FROM THAT?

(GOL) THEN THERE ARE PROBLEMS LIKE WHAT WILL BE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA--WILL IT BE COMPLETELY CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE NO PRESSURE (BY SYRIA--PRIS) LATER ON AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO COMMITMENT EITHER BY EGYPT OR THE UNITED STATES FOR A CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA, BECAUSE IN MY OPINION WE HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE IN AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA FOLLOWING WHAT WE GAVE IN THE EARLIER SETTLEMENT ON THE SEPARATION OF FORCES.

(QITAL) MR GOL, WHAT YOU SAY HERE IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE STAND OF THE MAJORITY IN THE CABINET. IT IS ALSO COMPATIBLE WITH THE STAND OF THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT NEVERTHELESS DURING THE VOTING LAST NIGHT IN THE CABINET YOU DID NOT VOTE FOR OR AGAINST. WHY?

(GOL) MY COLLEAGUE HAUSNER AND I DID NOT VOTE FOR THE DECISION BECAUSE FIRST WE WANT TO SEE THE FUTURE PROPOSALS. I DON'T WANT TO COMMIT MYSELF NOW REGARDING THE FUTURE. SECOND, THERE IS NO NEED FOR A TEAM OF MINISTERS TO HANDLE THE MATTER. THERE WAS A NEED FOR A TEAM OF MINISTER WHEN DR KISSINGER WAS IN THE REGION AND THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO MEET WITH HIM. OF COURSE THE CABINET COULD NOT MEET IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH HIM AND THERE WAS A NEED FOR A TEAM OF MINISTERS. NOW, SINCE THE MATTER IS BROUGHT TO US AND SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS I DON'T KNOW WHY WE NEED A TEAM OF MINISTERS. I WANT THE CABINET TO BE WELL AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND ITS DECISIONS SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN CONSIDERATIONS. FOR THAT REASON I DID NOT VOTE FOR THE DECISION.

(QITAL) THANK YOU MINISTER GOL. NOW WE HAVE ON THE TELEPHONE LINE MINISTER YITHAQ RAFA'EL OF THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY.

CAN YOU HEAR ME MINISTER RAFA'EL?

(MORE)

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